

THE COMING OF URBAN THE FIFTH

in a brief while receive such a stroke that his teeth will gnash; his sight will be darkened and grow dim, and all the limbs of his body will tremble. The ardour of the Holy Spirit will for a while grow tepid within him and depart, and the prayers of all the friends of God, who resolved to pray for him with tears and groans, will be numbed, and the love of him will grow cold in their hearts. And he will render account before God of the things which he has done in the papal chair, and of the things which he has omitted, but could have done to the honour of God in his great position." ¹

This revelation she delivered in person to the Pope, in the presence of the young French cardinal, Pierre Roger de Beaufort, the nephew of Clement VI.² But Urban went sadly on his way. On September 5, 1370, he sailed from Corneto, reaching France on the 16th. Three months later, on December 19, he died at Avignon, in the house of his brother Anglico, at his own wish stretched on the couch of poverty and dressed in the Benedictine habit. An ineffectual Pope, but a faithful monk to the end.⁸ On December 30, Cardinal Pierre Roger de Beaufort was elected to succeed him ; he was ordained priest on January 4, 1371, and, the next day, was crowned Pope under the title of Gregory XL

A month before Urban's death, in November, 1370, a peace had been concluded at Bologna between the Church and Perugia, by the intervention of the ambassadors of Florence—the principal conditions of which were that the city of Perugia should recognize the Pope and the Church in perpetuity as its sovereign, and that

¹ *Revelationes*, IV. 138.

² The Cardinal had previously refused to present the revelation to Urban. Cf. Alfonso's testimony in Raynaldus, vii. p. 374.

⁸ According to Birgitta, in spite of his great fall, Urban's soul finds mercy at the last because of his fidelity to his vows. Cf. *Revelations**, IV. 144 : " Visio quam habuit Sponsa Chnsti de iudicio animae cujusdam Summi Pontificis defuncti." The Comtesse de Flavigny (*Sainte Brigtte de Suede*, p. 285) is dearly in error in supposing that Clement VI is the pontiff in question. Cf. Petrarca, *Rer. Sen.*, Lib. XIII. ep. 13. The Bolognese anticipated the judgment of the Church by at once venerating the dead Pope as a saint.